

American Bantam Association Yearbooks for the Albert
R. Mann Library Collection: Yes or No?



From: S. Robert Powell <srp18407@gmail.com>

Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 at 11:09 AM

To: Michael N. Cook <mnc2@cornell.edu>, Betsy Elswit <eee6@cornell.edu>

Subject: Mann Library at 2 P.M. on the 29th

June 27, 2022

Dear Michael and Betsy:

One of the poultry items that is not on the list of "71 items from Powell" for the Mann Library poultry collection is "American Bantam Association yearbooks, 1925-1979, various". (See the attached file, which, given its size, will be sent to you via Google Drive.)

Please be assured that I am not questioning the Mann Library's decision not to add these ABA Yearbooks to the Cornell University poultry archive. Maybe Cornell already has all these yearbooks? Maybe Cornell does not accession yearbooks for the poultry collection?

Having said that, allow me to lobby on behalf of these ABA Yearbooks as possible additions to the Mann Library poultry collection, for the following reasons:

--the two primary division of exhibition poultry are, as you know, "standard" size and "bantam" size birds, and a "balanced" collection of poultry materials should, I think, have primary materials on both size birds

--all of these ABA yearbooks are substantial documents (150+ pages) and they contain a great many articles from leading breeders and exhibitors about exhibition poultry--and these articles are not published anywhere else;

--the front covers of many of these yearbooks are original works of art by the leading poultry artists of the twentieth century, and the front covers of these yearbooks may well be the only extant copies of those historically important works of art;

--copies of pre-1960 *ABA Yearbooks* are extremely rare, and many of the yearbooks in this collection may well be the only copies in existence of these yearbooks.

As I said above, I am not, by any means, questioning the decisions that were made when the list of 71 items was established, but I do think it important to bring to your attention some facts about these ABA Yearbooks that may not have been known or understood by Cornell University when the list of 71 items was drawn up.

I look forward to my drive up to Cornell on Wednesday, and, with any luck, I should be there at 1 P.M.

Best,

Robert

SRP sent to Michael Cook, in three emails on June 27, scans of the covers of the 43 ABA Yearbooks in question. His reply is given below.

ABA Yearbooks, Email No. 1 of 3

Inbox



Michael N. Cook

Tue, Jun
28, 11:34
AM

to SRP and to Betsy Elswit <eee6@cornell.edu> at the Mann Library at Cornell

Dear Robert,

[first paragraph below has been enlarged by SRP for emphasis]

These are nothing short of ***breathtaking*** - I am already thinking that these could be part of a future exhibit. It also makes me wonder if the ABA would grant us permission to digitize these. We have the expertise to really do it right and make these available to the world online, and an endowment to cover the costs. All we would need would be their permission.

Looks like the pleasant weather will continue. Thank you so much for making the case for these wonderful publications. I am very much looking forward to meeting you tomorrow.

Michael

From: S. Robert Powell <srp18407@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:34 AM

To: Michael N. Cook <mnc2@cornell.edu>

Subject: ABA Yearbooks, Email No. 1 of 3

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Michael:

I am very pleased to learn that you would like to take a look at the ABA Yearbooks.

I will now send (attached to this email and two more) jpg files of the covers of the whole collection.

Thanks for the very explicit driving directions.

See you tomorrow.

Robert

Note from S. Robert Powell: The 43 American Bantam Association yearbooks in question were added to the Mann Library's collection of June 29, 2022.

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